

Docket No. 741890-20

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Patent Application of:
Martin CALDWELL et al.
Serial No. 09/936,841
Filed: September 18, 2000
For: A SURGICAL ACCESS DEVICE**

Examiner: M. Milano
Group Art Unit: 3731

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on April 11, 2003.

April Campbell
April Campbell

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir,

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/936,841
Filing Date	September 18, 2000
First Named Inventor	Martin CALDWELL et al.
An Unit	3731
Examiner Name	M. Milano
Attorney Docket Number	741890-20

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US- 6,440,063 B1	08-27-2002	Beane et al.	
		US- 6,077,288	06-20-2000	Stumomura et al.	
		US- 5,640,977	06-24-1997	Leahy et al.	
		US- 6,149,642	11-21-2000	Gerhart et al.	
		US- 5,545,179	08-13-1996	Williamson, IV	
		US- 6,276,661 B1	08-21-2001	Laird	
		US- 3,347,227	08-17-1967	H. W. Harrower	
		US- 2001/0037053A1	11-01-2001	Bonadio et al.	
		US- 6,382,211 B1	03-07-2002	Crook	
		US- 6,033,428	08-07-2000	Sardella	
		US- 6,450,983 B1	09-17-2002	Rambo	
		US- 6,254,533 B1	07-03-2001	Fadem et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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